

OREGON NEWS OF INTEREST

ROADBUILDING IN CLACKAMAS.

To Make Permanent Path is Policy of County Court.

Oregon City—“During the last year Clackamas county has expended \$40,000 in roadbuilding,” says Judge Ryan. “The policy of the county court is to build permanently when any piece of road is constructed and where the funds are available,” continued Mr. Ryan. “This year Clackamas county has been especially fortunate in its roadbuilding, having funds on hand with which to meet every warrant that has been issued on this account. In our roadbuilding the court has been disposed very generally to follow the plan of reducing the grade of all roads that are treated, finding that this course contributes much to the permanency of the improvements that are made.”

The announcement that Clackamas county roads will next year be experimented with in the use of oil has aroused much interest. Judge Ryan has received numerous inquiries from California producers, who have offered to deliver the oil here at no greater a cost than it costs in California. The court will place this oil on all of the different kinds of clay soil in the county and determine its value in road construction.

New Phone Through Polk.

Independence—Riley Craven, W. W. Percival and W. A. Mesner have organized a stock company to be known as the Independence Telephone company, the purpose being to build a telephone line from Independence to Monmouth and elsewhere in the county as desired. The line will connect with the Luckiamute line at Monmouth, and is to work in connection with the Corvallis, Dallas, Falls City, McMinnville, Amy, Perrydale and McCoy Mutual lines, already established. The company will circulate papers and secure stock for promoting the enterprise. The privilege is given by the council of Independence to place the line in this city. Steps will be taken to obtain the same in Monmouth. The service for Independence and Monmouth will be through the Independence central office.

Road to Galice.

Merlin—Work has begun on the new road to Galice, and it is expected it will be completed in six weeks. Considerable freight is here awaiting the completion of the road, among it a sawmill for the Rand mine. The Merlin Townsite company has material on hand for the construction of a telephone line to Galice as soon as the road is completed. It would be in operation now, but it was desired to have it follow the new road. It is intended to carry the line four miles beyond Galice, giving service to the Alameda, Rand, Big Tank and other mines. The expenditure of a small amount of money will also complete the new road to the mines named.

Coming Events.

North Pacific Unitarian conference, Salem, October 25-27.
Annual meeting Oregon Miners' association, Portland, November 14.
State Bar association, Portland, November 15-16.
National Grange, Portland, November 16-26.
Convention of County Clerks and Recorders, Portland, November 25-26.
Poultry show, Corvallis, December 10-12.
Oregon Good Roads convention, Salem, December 13-15.

Wheatmen Give Liberally.

Pendleton—Leon Cohen, who is directing the work of raising \$5,000 in this county for the Open River association to build the portage road at Celilo, is meeting with success and says the necessary amount of money can easily be raised in another week. The large wheat raisers in the county, who have been approached, are subscribing quite liberally and already nearly half of the amount has been raised. Mr. Cohen has agents at work in the country, and they have been instructed to make a thorough canvass.

Willamette Still Low.

Albany—Water in the Willamette river is yet two feet too low to permit steamboat traffic on the Upper Willamette. After two or three days of hard rain, with frequent rains following, the boats will be able to reach Albany regularly. The upper traffic will be conducted by the Oregon City Transportation company again this year, and the boats which will make the Portland-Corvallis run will very probably be the Pomona and the Oregon.

No Insurance on Flax.

Salem—Upon examining his insurance policies, Eugene Bosse found that his insurance on the flax burned expired a month ago. The policy was for \$3,000. Mr. Bosse has this year's crop of flax spread in the fields or stored at Scio, so that he has some raw material with which to start a linen mill. The fire, however, will cause delay in starting the mill.

Delegates to Commercial Congress.

Salem—Governor Chamberlain has appointed J. E. Aitcheson, of Portland, and F. B. Holbrook, of Irigoin, as delegates to the trans-Mississippi Commercial congress, to be held at St. Louis.

INCREASE IN IMPLEMENT TRADE.

Wheatgrowers Have Money Which to Buy Tools.

Pendleton—A traveling man for a leading implement company says the implement trade in the wheat districts of Oregon and Washington is better this season than ever before in the history of the two states. More money is evident among the growers and more cash is paid for implements than usual.

Trade in the communities in the interior of Oregon, where nothing but stock is raised is slow, as the growers have not sold any beef during the past two years at a profit, consequently ready money is at a premium. All are confident the coming season will prove profitable. Much stock has been unloaded at the low prices, as it has not paid to hold and feed, and as a result next year will find fewer head of stock in the country and prices will necessarily have to advance.

Ores From Blue River Mines.

Eugene—At a special meeting of the Eugene Commercial club the committee appointed to look after an exhibit of minerals from Blue River mining district reported promises of ores for the Lewis and Clark exhibit amounting to \$8,000 pounds, and that this amount will be swelled by mine owners who have not yet been seen to at least 45,000 pounds. The miners are reported as taking the matter in hand with energy and they are desirous of doing all in their power to further the matter. The ores will be hauled to Eugene this fall, in order to be ready for installation at the beginning of the Lewis and Clark exposition.

Sowing Fall Wheat.

Albany—Linn county farmers are sowing a great deal of fall wheat now, and from present prospects the acreage of wheat sown in this county will be three or four times as large as that sown last year. There are several reasons for this. Last fall was not auspicious for sowing grain, and the acreage was small, while this fall has been a good one for seeding purposes. The spring grain this year was a complete failure, and the spring yield for several years has been light, so farmers in this part of the state are beginning to abandon the practice of sowing at that time.

Logging Road to Be Built.

La Grande—The surveys are about completed for a narrow-gauge logging railroad from Hilgard, eight miles west of La Grande, up the Grand Ronde river about 30 miles, to a heavy body of timber owned by the Grand Ronde Lumber company, of Perry, on the slopes of the Blue mountains. The company has been driving its logs down the river for the past 12 years, but it is now becoming almost impossible to get a sufficient amount of logs by this method for the season's run, and the company has determined to build a road to the timber. These mills employ about 200 men during the busy season.

Mine Promoters' Improvements.

La Grande—The promoters of the Camp Carson mines, southwest of this city, which were recently purchased by a company of California capitalists with James R. Elmendorf as manager, have made arrangements with the Grand Ronde Lumber company, at Perry, five miles west, to build a good wagon road up the Grand Ronde river from Starkey to Prospect ranch. This road will shorten the distance to the mines several miles and will cut out several steep and bad grades, which will be a great advantage to the timbermen in getting the pine over better roads, as also to the mining company.

Coal on Butter Creek.

Pendleton—A coal deposit has been discovered at the head of Butter creek, in the southern part of Umatilla county. Joseph McLaughlin made the discovery a short time ago while engaged at work on his stock ranch. Samples have been sent to experts, and favorable tests have been made. The coal is similar to deposits near Heppner. Mr. McLaughlin plans to develop the mines, and already preliminary work has been started. The deposits are said to extend a long distance into the mountains from the head of Butter creek.

Ready Sale of Coins.

Grants Pass—If the Lewis and Clark souvenir gold dollars sell everywhere over the state as they are selling at Grants Pass, the number allotted by congress will soon be exhausted. The first installment sent to the First National bank of Grants Pass has been sold out, and second lot is now going as fast as the first lot went. Mining men are the principal buyers, and not a few are being purchased to send East.

Northwest Wheat Markets.

Portland—Walla Walla, 83c; bluestem, 86c; valley, 85c.
Tacoma—Bluestem, 89½c; club, 85½c.
Colfax—Club, 73c; bluestem, 75c.

JOY IN RUSSIA.

Army is Said to Have Assumed the Offensive.

St. Petersburg, Oct. 20.—There is jubilation throughout the city over the news that General Karopatin has resumed the offensive, and the holiday which began with little heart closed brighter. The crowds in the streets and the illuminations in honor of the czar's nameday gave a tinge of brilliancy to an evening otherwise depressing, through a constant drizzle of rain. Newsboys up to midnight raced through the thoroughfares with evening extras, shouting “Great Russian victory,” and the crowds bought the papers greedily. Groups of men in brilliant uniforms, or in evening dress at the hotels and restaurants, discussed the change in the fortunes of war, but, as a whole, the population was slow to take fire. News of the earlier reverses had been received stolidly, and the reports of Russian successes and the capture of guns were quietly accepted with satisfaction, but with considerable reserve.

The emperor marked the day by appointing his youthful heir chief of the cadet corps, and by a ukase pensioning the survivors, widows and orphans of the Turkish-Russian war and promoting all the retired captains of the Turkish-Russian war to the rank of lieutenants colonel.

Japanese Retreat Cut Off.

Mukden, Oct. 20.—It is reported that the Russian army is advancing. Rain is hindering everything. The rivers are bankfull and the fords are impassable. There are no bridges. Supplies of all sorts are delayed. News has just been received that the Japanese left flank has been driven back with heavy loss and its retreat cut off. A Russian regiment is now being hurried to the scene in the hope of completing the rout. There was fighting today on both sides of the great Mandarin road.

THOUSANDS MAY BE LOST.

Emigrant Ship With 2,200 People Reported to Have Gone Down.

London, Oct. 20.—The Standard prints a dispatch from Vienna in this morning's issue, stating a rumor is prevalent at Fiume, on the Adriatic coast, that a Cunard liner with 2,200 emigrants on board, which left that city last week, has sunk off the Spanish coast in a storm.

Considerable excitement has been created here by the report, although it is believed if such a calamity had occurred, London or Liverpool would have received news of it from a point nearer the alleged scene of the disaster than Fiume.

Telegraphic inquiry made at Liverpool, where the Cunard line has its British offices, elicited no further news. One of the officials declared he had received no such report, and as far as he knew, none of his colleagues was in possession of more information than was given to the world by the Standard. The Standard is a reliable paper. It prints the rumor without commenting on it, simply giving it for what it is worth.

MINERS' STRIKE ENDED.

Colorado Men Looking for Situations Wherever They Can Get Them.

Denver, Oct. 20.—The strike of coal miners of district No. 15, United Mine Workers of America, which has been on for a year, has been practically closed up, according to a dispatch to the News from Trinidad, Colo.

The commissaries are closed, most of the tents have been taken down and the men are looking for situations wherever they can get them. All the men who were on strike up to October 12 are given union clearance cards.

It is understood that those of the strikers who desire transportation to other fields will be so provided. William Howells and John Simpson, president and secretary, respectively, of district 15, will not be candidates for re-election for their respective offices at the Mine Workers' election, which occurs by referendum vote during this month. Robert Smith seems to be in the lead for president and Harry Douthwaite for secretary.

Transfer of Alaska Commemorated.

St. Louis, Oct. 20.—In commemoration of the 37th anniversary of the transfer of the territory of Alaska to the United States, Alaska day at the world's fair was observed today. One of the features of the ceremony was the unveiling in the Alaska pavilion of a bust of William Henry Seward, secretary of state, when the purchase was made. The presentation speech was made by Francis Lemoine Loring, of New York city, to which Governor John G. Brady, of Alaska, responded. Addresses were made by several.

Withdrawn From Entry.

Butts, Oct. 20.—A Miner special from Great Falls says: The local land office today received instruction to withdraw from all forms of entry 276,480 acres of land, in connection with the Milk river irrigation project. Part of the tract withdrawn lies northwest of Havre, extending irregularly from the line of the Great Northern to the international boundary, comprising part of the chain of lakes, reservoir sites and lands along Milk river.

Coal Mine to Close.

Pittsburg, Pa., Oct. 20.—The directors of the Allegheny Coal company have decided to suspend operations indefinitely at their Harwick mines next Saturday. This will almost depopulate a village of 1,000 people.

Toilers of the Columbia

By PAUL DE LANEY

Author of "Lord of the Desert," "Oregon Sketches," and other Pacific Coast Stories



CHAPTER VII.

Toilers of the Columbia.

“How is the storm?”
“Pretty high, father, but not so high as it was a week ago.”
“I do not believe I can go today, my child.”

“Well, father, I will try it alone. Dan Lapham fishes a trap alone, and I believe I can do so, too.”

“Oh, no, my child. Dan is a strong young man. He has not an equal on the bay, and you are my frail little girl. I know you are willing and your strength at times seems to be supernatural, but you could not fish a trap alone. It is out of the question.”

“But Dan's trap is near ours. You know he often helps me when you are tired and I would help him this morning in return for his services. You are not able to go, my father.”

“But I will go,” said the old man as he drew himself feebly from the bed.

“My child, this work is getting too severe for you. For more than a year you have had to pull at the oars and your task has grown greater until your strength is over-taxed. Day by day I grow more feeble and day by day the burden is increased upon your shoulders. If I could only complete the link that still is missing I would place you where you could continue your studies and the old man that I am would spend his few remaining days in comfort as your ward. I know, Sankala, that you would not begrudge me so small an amount if it were yours.”

“No, father, it should all be yours. I have only one desire, and that is to place you where you shall have rest. You need rest, father, you need rest. No one nearly so old as you toils on the Columbia, and yet you go day after day, and often when you are too feeble even to stir. Listen, the storm rages this morning! You should not go at all.”

Thus spoke Sankala to Ringwold. Another year had passed in their lives. The price of fish had gone down under the hard times and close competition and Ringwold had for many months been unable to make a support for the two alone. In fact, he had struggled beyond his strength to keep Sankala in school and the cran was close at hand. He was now giving out his last strength. Often he would become completely exhausted and lie for a time in the bow of the fishing boat while the girl worked on alone. It was on these occasions that good-hearted Dan Lapham had come to their rescue and assisted poor Sankala to do her work.

She had become hardened to the work, however, and frail as she was she could handle a boat and draw in the web of the fish trap with the skill of the average man. It was not her strength that did it, however. It was her will power and a nimble, quick motion of an expert nature that women possess over men.

Twice this morning had Ringwold fainted while Sankala was assisting him to dress and she had revived him and carried on the work. The child was accustomed to this and did not realize how serious was the condition of the old man.

When the fishermen reached the beach the waves were coming in with a rush. They threw the drift wood further back with each pulsation. Out in the darkness through the mist and the rain the white caps could be seen leaping about like the salmon they were pursuing. The strongest fisherman paused this morning. They were often compelled to remain ashore until late and even over-day. But this was always a disappointment. The fish ran better when there was a storm and the hard times now urged the toilers on their duty.

While the men were thus pausing from indecision Ringwold and Sankala appeared. Without seeming to notice the disturbed condition of the bay they shoved their boat into the water and while Ringwold steered Sankala threw her oars against the seething current. They gradually mingled with the dark phantoms which danced upon the sea until they were lost from view.

The fishermen had become so accustomed to the dangers of their life that they thought but little about it. What to the stranger would have appeared foolhardy was to them duty and choice. But the storm this morning was unusually high and that intuition akin to the instinct that protects animals from destruction, warned the fishermen to be cautious.

But when Sankala braved the waters with her aged companion the most daring of the fishermen followed. Dan Lapham, smarting under his former timidity, was first seen to shoot out in his boat in pursuit of the two who worked a trap near his own. Then one by one the others followed.

The fish traps were constructed along the entire north shore of the river, which is Baker's bay, from Cape Disappointment to McGowan's Point, a distance of a dozen miles or more. The middle of the river was the dividing line. The river is the dividing line between the two states and the fishermen from the two states claim their rights, even to a hair's breadth.

The fishermen on the north had traps while those on the south had nets. The cannerymen on the south side of the river owned most of the nets, and old Seadog owned most of the traps on

the north. The fishermen were employed by the day on the nets and given so much for each fish captured. The trappers were employed by the day or worked the traps on shares. All the fishermen used row boats peculiar for their work. Save with rare exceptions the boats were manned by two, both at the nets and the traps. One was called the puller and the other the fisherman. While the latter tended his nets or traps the puller guided the boat to suit the work.

The nets were known as gill nets. These were stretched out their full length in the water, which was many feet and even yards. Floaters were placed along the top of the net at proper distances to hold it in position while sinkers carried the bottom of the net deep into the water. The meshes of the net were of such size as would permit the entrance of the average fishes head. When once it entered the meshes the gills were fastened and the fish held prisoner until removed by the fishermen.

The traps, one of which Ringwold and Sankala tended, were constructed differently. A large figure was formed in the shallow water by the driving of piles. It represented a heart and on either side extended long wings. The wings enclosed a semi-circle facing the ocean and immediately in the rear of where they come together was the large heart. A netting, called web, was stretched along the piles from the surface of the water to the bottom of the bay. By this means a perfect heart with wings was perfected.

The valve of the heart opened immediately at the conjunction of the wings. This was at the sharp point of the “V” which is formed at the top of the heart.

A trap for fish it is a success. The salmon come up from the ocean and enter the mouth of the river fresh and strong. They run in great schools and follow the shallow channels laying their spawn as they go farther up the stream.

When the noses of the fish strike the web forming the wings of the heart, they follow the wings to the center. Here they find their way through the opening into the heart. When once into the heart their capture is complete. They circle about the place passing the same apex of the heart through which they entered without ever discovering it as a means of escape, and are thus held as captives until the fishermen take them into their boats.

They sometimes enter these traps by the hundreds within 24 hours. They range in weight from five to 20 pounds and larger.

CHAPTER VIII.

A Morning of Disaster.

“Hello, Captain!”
“Hello, lookout!”
“The sea is high and the fishermen are venturing out.”

“All right, I will send out the men.”
Cape Disappointment life saving station nestled beneath the rocks of the cliffs that extended far out over the sea. Many a mariner had met disappointment here. For from the sea the spot looked like a place of refuge from the storm. But he who dared to trust it had often been dashed to death against its walls.

Shaken and addled, as it were, while crossing the river bar, the night's rovers of the deep had been broken up here like glass upon the rocks.

It was the treachery of its appearance that gave name to the place. It was the great loss of life that had caused the government to establish a life saving station at the foot of the cliffs.

But the life savers had a double duty to perform. The purpose for which they were originally placed there was insignificant to the duty that later developed. They were provided by the government to watch incoming vessels and save the lives of ship wrecked seamen and travelers on the deep, but later it was found that a hundred calls came from those whose lives were spent on the river to where one came from those who lived on the sea.

Like guardians of children the life savers stood upon watch and as the fishermen came and so were they on duty.

From the early hours of morning until nearly noon, and from early afternoon until late in the evening the fishermen dotted the river in their tiny boats and struggled with their nets verging on the very danger line where ocean and river met. Once across this line and the frail craft of the fisherman was at the mercy of the undertow and many a toiler was dragged to his death ere the government protectors of life could reach the spot in boats prepared for the purpose.

The lighthouse stood upon the highest point of the cape overlooking the sea. Beneath its shadow stood a small structure barely large enough inside for one man to stand, turn about and sit down. It was built of glass save that its framework and roof was made of iron. The glass was thick and almost as strong as iron for it required strength to withstand the terrible storms that beat upon it from the sea.

It was occupied night and day by one man at a time. One was on watch from noon until midnight and the other from midnight until noon. Not even a light was allowed for it was not needed by day and by night it would blind the watch so that he could not look out upon the ocean and river.

Throughout the day he peered out through his glasses over the sea and river and bay. At night he followed the great revolving light in the lighthouse above his head and watched for objects on the water while he looked further out for the smaller lights of vessels.

It was on the morning that Sankala and Ringwold had put forth into the storm that the conversation took place over the telephone between the lookout and the captain of the life saving crew recorded at the beginning of this chapter.

The lookout had seen the small craft battling with the surf on the bosom of the bay in the dim light shot out from overhead. He could feel the storm blowing against the structure which enclosed him; besides the register showed a high velocity of wind.

It foreboded a day of hard work. Fishermen would venture forth in dangerous storms and this compelled the life savers to stand on constant guard. They would enter their boats and beat along the danger line like sentinels to keep the fishermen from rowing to their death. And in spite of this precaution scores find watery graves at the mouth of the Columbia every year.

As the fishermen fought their way cut on this stormy morning the life savers shot out from under the cliffs toward the bar. Here bordering on the danger line themselves they patrolled the river to rescue those less capable than themselves to withstand the receding tide.

“Hello, captain!”
“Hello, lookout!”

“Signal distress off west end of Jetty Sand Spit. A boat is heading for the breakers!”

“Bing, bing, bing!” went three guns.

“Hello, captain!”
“Hello, lookout!”

“Signal distress off Pacific rocks. Boat seems to be capsized and men clinging to upturned hull!”

“Bing, bing!” went two guns.

After a few minutes pause the captain's phone rang again.

“Hello, captain!”
“Hello, lookout!”

“Signal distress off Disappointment rocks! Boat shoving for breakers like a rocket! Girl at the oars; is powerless—think it is Sankala, the old chemist's daughter!”

“Bing, bing, bing, bing!” rang out five shots from the cliffs below. This was the most dangerous point at the mouth of the river and was called the hell gap, for it was here that so many fishermen had lost their lives.

The swift receding current forced a sort of maelstrom at the point of the rocks and when once fairly in its clutches boats were swept like chaff into the breakers and disappeared like shot thrown into the water.

The life savers knew the signals as well as their alphabet and rushed to the rescue like firemen to the call of fire. And when the signal came for Disappointment rocks the sturdy boys lying off that point bent to their oars with all their might.

The life savers were divided up into crews and each of these divisions covered given points. The men selected for the most dangerous places were the most experienced and dared the elements as veteran soldiers face the death line in battle.

While the rescuers were hurrying to the calls of distress the captain had ascended to the lookout's station. Day was already dawning and while signals were given at night by the discharge of firearms, they were given in day time with flags from lookout point.

With the advancing day the river and bay presented a busy appearance. A speck here to the natural eye was revealed through the strong glasses to be a fisherman's boat struggling with the nets or waves. Some were going, some were coming. Each was oblivious of the other. One was dashing to its ruin at another point and life savers were going to its rescue, while the men in danger were often unconscious of the fact.

But in the work which was so common as to bring no excitement to the veteran captain of the crew he surveyed the waters as a general does his battlefield.

This morning, however, a change came over his face. He saw a frail fisherman's boat being swept toward Disappointment rocks. Standing up working her useless oars with all her strength was Sankala. The glasses revealed her firm features and while she looked into the jaws of death she was as calm as the rocks which awaited her approach. Ringwold lay motionless in the boat. Whether dead or asleep the glasses did not disclose. It was evident that they had never reached the fish trap for the boat was as empty as it had been when they had first started out.

The captain raised the signal flag high above his head and waved it five times in succession. But here the life boat which was giving Sankala's boat a stern chase, passed behind some rocks that had just hidden her and several seconds must pass before they would appear again.

(To be continued)

An Angry Landlady.

Boarder No. 1—What's that loud thumping noise in the kitchen?
Boarder No. 2—It's the landlady hammering the steak and wishing it was the beef trust.—Chicago Tribune.

Mayor McClellan asserts that he would prefer to be Mayor of Greater New York than Governor of the Empire State.